

motives were found in a hospital's records by the OIG, it would be considered prima facie evidence of nefarious intent.

Nonetheless, it will not serve us well in the long run to unfairly debate the reputation of the whole health care system in a McCarthy-like atmosphere. Real fraud cannot be tolerated, but intimidating providers with spurious charges of fraud as part of a fund-raising scheme is equally intolerable. Someone, especially Congress, needs to be watching the watchers.



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